

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS REPORTAGE, EVENING, SATURDAY
AUGUST 23

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS (FUNSETH)

NO. 12

1. CBS NEWS: RATHER LEADS/WITH: SECSTATE HAK IS IN ISRAEL
TONIGHT, AFTER A DAY OF TRYING TO GET THE ISRAELIS AND
EGYPTIANS TOGETHER AND TRYING TO KEEP THE SYRIANS FROM
GETTING IN THE WAY.

BKALB: FOR KISSINGER, IT WAS A DAY OF DIPLOMACY WITH THREE
COUNTRIES. FOLLOWING UP HIS SESSION WITH PRESIDENT SADAT
LAST NIGHT, HAK MET WITH FM FAHMI, TO DRAW UP A CHECK-
LIST OF SADAT'S LATEST VIEWS ON WHAT WAS POSSIBLE IN THE
WAY OF COMPROMISES WITH THE ISRAELIS. FROM ALEXANDRIA,
HAK FLEW HIS DIPLOMATIC SHUTTLE TO THIS CAPITAL CITY OF
DAMASCUS, THE SECRETARY CONFIDENT FOLLOWING HIS FIRST
ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH BOTH THE EGYPTIANS AND THE
ISRAELIS.

REPORTERS ABOARD THE KISSINGER PLANE WERE TOLD THAT THE
SECRETARY BELIEVES THAT THE ATTITUDE OF BOTH SIDES IS TO
WRAP UP AN AGREEMENT IF IT CAN BE DONE; IF IT FAILS, IT
WILL BE BECAUSE OF ONE OR TWO POINTS THAT MIGHT EMERGE LATER

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IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT RIGHT NOW PROGRESS IS BEING

MADE, AND HAK DOES NOT EXPECT THE NEGOTIATIONS TO FAIL.

ONE OBJECTIVE OF HAK'S VISIT TO SYRIA WAS TO TRY TO FORESTALL ANY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO SABOTAGE ANY EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT. THE SYRIANS WANT THE GOLAN HEIGHTS BACK, AND KISSINGER SOUGHT TO REASSURE SYRIA THAT HER INTERESTS WERE NOT BEING IGNORED IN THE U.S. TRY FOR A SINAI ACCORD. IN FOUR HOURS OF TALKS WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD, HAK FOUND THAT WHILE THE SYRIAN LEADER WOULD NOT GO INTO DEEP MOURNING IF THE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATION FAILED, HE GAVE NO CLEAR SIGN THAT HE WOULD FIGHT IT. IT WAS, IN A SENSE, A NEGATIVE PLUS, PARTICULARLY SINCE SYRIA, AT A MINIMUM, COULD ALWAYS TRY TO STIR UP THE ARAB WORLD AGAINST EGYPT AS SELLING OUT ARAB INTERESTS.

HAK SOUGHT TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF HOPE FOR SYRIA, BY EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF A FUTURE SYRIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATION. ASSAD DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF, BUT LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE POSSIBILITY FOR SUCH A NEGOTIATION EXISTED.

STOP NUMBER THREE TODAY WAS ISRAEL, HAK PROCEEDING FROM THE AIRPORT TO A SESSION WITH ISRAELI LEADERS, TO CONVEY EGYPT'S LATEST THINKING. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN TEL AVIV, PRESUMABLY TO AVOID MORE ANTI-KISSINGER DEMONSTRATIONS IN JERUSALEM. BUT A DEMONSTRATION DID ERUPT TONIGHT IN TEL AVIV, NOT FAR FROM WHERE THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE TAKING PLACE.

2. NBC NEWS: TOM SNYDER'S SECOND ITEM: SECSTATE HAK CONTINUED HIS EFFORTS TO MEDIATE A PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE ME TONIGHT, BUT THERE IS A CATCH OR TWO REMAINING. THE ISRAELI NATIONAL RADIO CLAIMS THAT EGYPT WANTS TO INTRODUCE MORE SOLDIERS AND ARMOR 9 MILES DEEPER IN THE SINAI DESERT, AND SYRIA AND JORDAN HAVE TURNED DOWN KISSINGER'S PEACE PLANS AND CALLED FOR ARAB MILITARY PREPAREDNESS. NONETHELESS, HAK LEFT EGYPT TODAY AND HE TALKED WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD BEFORE GOING BACK TO ISRAEL FOR STILL MORE TALKS.

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RVALERIANI: A ORNATE SUMMER PALACE IN ALEXANDRIA WAS THE SITE FOR KISSINGER'S FIRST MEETING OF THE DAY, WITH EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ISMAHIL FAHMI. THEY DISCUSSED AND DEBATED EGYPT'S NEWEST NEGOTIATING PRFTOSALS, IN POINT-BY-POINT DETAIL. THE DISCUSSION LEFT HAK WITH THE FEELING THAT BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL WANT TO WRAP UP A NEW SINAI SETTLEMENT ASAP, AND THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROGRESSING AS EXPECTED.

THE NEXT STOP WAS DAMASCUS, WHERE HAK TALKED FOR SEVERAL

HOURS WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD, WHO IS NOT
HAPPY ABOUT A SEPARATE EGYPTIAN-ISRAEL AGREEMENT THAT IS
DESIGNED TO PREVENT EGYPT FROM TAKING PART IN ANOTHER
ME WAR. THE SYRIANS ARE CONCERNED THAT ANOTHER,
SEPARATE DEAL BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT WILL FREEZE THE
POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE ME FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER
THREE YEARS, BUT INFORMED SOURCES SAY THE UNITED STATES
HAS TOLD PRESIDENT ASSAD IT WILL MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT
TO PROMOTE A NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL
AND SYRIA. HOWEVER, AT THE SAME TIME, THE ISRAELIS
HAVE BEEN ASSURED THEY WILL NOT BE PRESSURED INTO MAKING
A NEW DEAL WITH SYRIA, IF THE NEGOTIATIONS BREAK DOWN.

KISSINGER'S RETURN TO ISRAEL TONIGHT COMPLETED HIS
FIRST ROUND-TRIP SHUTTLE. HE HEADED IMMEDIATELY FOR A
MEETING WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS AT A LOCATION THAT WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE KEPT SECRET TO FOIL ANTI-KISSINGER
DEMONSTRATIONS. BUT THE DEMONSTRATORS FOUND OUT WHERE THE
MEETING WAS BEING HELD, NEAR TEL AVIV, AND THEY
FLOCKED TO THE AREA TO PROTEST AGAINST AN AGREEMENT THEY
CLAIM WILL JEOPARDIZE ISRAEL'S SECURITY.

HAK SAYS HE THINKS EVEN SOME OF THE DEMONSTRATORS WILL
COME TO SEE THAT ANOTHER AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT IS IN THE
BEST LONG-TERM INTEREST OF ISRAEL, BUT FOR THE
SHORT TERM, WHILE HAK IS IN THE AREA, THE DEMONSTRATORS
PLAN TO CONTINUE THEIR PROTESTS.

3. ABC: KOPPEL OPENS PROGRAM:
ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT, THE FIRST OF THREE STOPS THAT
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SECRETARY KISSINGER MADE TODAY IN HIS CONTINUING EFFORT
TO SHUTTLE THE ME AWAY FROM THE BRINK OF WAR ...

TOMJARRIEL ANCHORING IN NEW YORK: SECSTATE HAK TONIGHT
IS IN TEL AVIV HAVING SPENT THE DAY ENGAGED IN SHUTTLE
DIPLOMACY WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD. THE PROSPECTS
FOR REACHING AN INTERIM ME SETTLEMENT SEEMED TO HAVE
IMPROVED AFTER HAK REPORTEDLY RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM
SYRIA THAT THAT COUNTRY WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO BLGC*
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